

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 USIE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 /030 W

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O 061549Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2062

UNCLAS OSLO 3310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UR, NO

SUBJ: U.S. YACHT "NORDSTERNEN"

REF: A) OSLO 3294; B) MOSCOW 10513; C) OSLO 3176 JULY 30 1975.

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES IN VARDØ

THAT THEY TRANSMITTED THE EMERGENCY MESSAGE, AS QUOTED IN REF A, THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM MR. LEVERING. THEY FURTHER INFORMED US THAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT MR. LEVERING ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN HE WAS MUCH CLOSER TO THE NORWEGIAN COAST.

2. THE NORWEGIAN MARITIME DIRECTORATE INFORMED EMBASSY OSLO IN MID-JUNE OF MR. LEVERING'S INTENDED VOYAGE AND AT THE SAME TIME INFORMED US THAT THEY HAD ADVISED AGAINST IT. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED AT THAT TIME, MR. LEVERING WAS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY NORVALD ULVIK OF AALESUND, NORWAY, PRESUMABLY A NORWEGIAN CITIZEN. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, MR. LEVERING HAD CONSULTED WITH THE POLAR INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD, THE NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE AND THE FRIDTJOF NANSEN FOUNDATION IN NORWAY REGARDING HIS PROPOSED VOYAGE.

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3. THE EMBASSY TODAY CONTACTED MRS. ELSE HBISTENDAHL LEVERING WHO

STATED THAT MR. ULVIK, AGED 38 AND A MAN WITH EXTENSIVE SAILING EXPERIENCE, HAD INDEED SET OFF WITH HER HUSBAND. SHE FURTHER STATED THAT MR. LEVERING AND HIS COMPANION HAD PROVISIONS FOR ONE YEAR'S TIME AND THAT THEY WERE COMPLETELY PREPARED FOR UNEXPECTED DELAYS CAUSED BY HEAVY ICE IN THE AREA. MRS. LEVERING STATED THAT HER HUSBAND HAD NO PLANS TO STOP ANYWHERE EN ROUTE PRIOR TO REACHING HIS FINAL DESTINATION AT POINT BARROW, ALASKA. SHE SAID MR. LEVERING HAD NO PLANS TO MONITOR RADIO MESSAGES DURING THE VOYAGE BUT ONLY INTENDED TO USE HIS RADIO TO MAKE EMERGENCY BROADCASTS. MRS. LEVERING DID ASK THAT EMBASSY OSLO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE TO ALL, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO AID HER HUSBAND AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. ANY SUCH MESSAGES CAN BE PASSED TO HER THROUGH OSLO.

4. AS DESCRIBED IN REF C, MR. LEVERING SET OUT TO MAKE THE SAME VOYAGE LAST SUMMER, BUT ABANDONED THE VENTURE ON REACHING HONNINGSVAAG, A POINT IN THE NORTHERNMOST PART OF NORWAY ON THE WEST COAST.

5. EMBASSY HAS ANSWERED PRESS QUERIES FROM NORTH NORWEGIAN MEDIA AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN OSLO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, ASKED NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES SATURDAY TO RELAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE VIA VARDØ RADIO TO WALTER LEVERING: 'YOU ARE ADVISED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES DESIRE YOU TO RETURN BACK BECAUSE OF ICE CONDITIONS. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW RECOMMENDS COMPLIANCE.' VARDØ RADIO INDICATED IT WOULD SEND THE MESSAGE EVERY THREE HOURS FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES, WHO ADVISED THAT "NORDSTERNEN", WHICH IS OFF VAYGACH ISLAND, IS IN IMMINENT DANGER DUE TO EXTREME ICE CONDITIONS. WHEN ASKED IF SOVIETS INDICATED TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH LEVERING, EMBASSY REPLIED: 'WE UNDERSTAND HE HAS RECEIVED PROVISIONS, WATER, FUEL FROM THE SOVIET UNION' UNQUOTE. EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY WISH TO INFORM SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF EFFORTS MADE AT THIS END TO CONTACT MR. LEVERING WITHOUT SUCCESS AND THAT THE CHANCES OF DOING SO IN THE FUTURE ARE DIM.

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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